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SUBJECT Chervenkov's Moscow Visits: Bulgarian Organization

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SUPP. TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. After Stalin's death and the arrest of Beria, there was considerable unrest in the Bulgarian Army and in parts of the Bulgarian security forces. As a result Valco Chervenkov, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Party, was called to Moscow for a series of conferences with L.N. Buznev on behalf of the International Bureau.
2. This was in Aug 1953. Chervenkov blamed Zhordan Karandjiev, chairman of the security department of the Bulgarian Party for the unrest, but succeeded in convincing the Kremlin that a general purge in Bulgaria at the present time would be dangerous. On the other hand Chervenkov undertook to strengthen Communist evolution in Bulgaria by new elections and a full session of the VI Congress of the Bulgarian Party. The elections were scheduled for 20 Dec 53, and the Congress for 25 Feb 54.
3. The aims of these measures are the elimination of Beria's supporters in Bulgaria, a reshuffle of the government and the Presidium of the Bulgarian Communist Party in the direction of collective leadership, and certain changes in the statutes of the Party.
4. The struggle in the leadership, which takes place in Bulgaria as in other Communist countries, is much less doctrinaire and more personal. Thus far it remains undecided; Karandjiev retains his strong position and will address the Party Congress in person. Chervenkov has been given full powers to correct the critical agricultural situation, in spite of Chervenkov's opposition.
5. Immediately following the elections Chervenkov will go to Moscow again for further reports and directives.

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